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March 18, 2005

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor,

I am writing to request your support for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, the United States Geological Survey, and the *H.L. Hunley* Submarine Project in the FY2006 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I am respectfully requesting \$5 million for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. This request is an increase of \$3 million over the President's FY2006 budget. The program provides funds to purchase land from willing sellers on sights of major engagements during the Civil War. I have personally visited some of these historic sites and I am committed to preserving them for future generations.

I am also requesting an increases of \$28 million for the Mineral Resource Program and \$4 million for the National Streamflow Information Program and Water Resources Cooperative Program over the President's FY2006 budget request. I support the President's budget requests for the Land Remote Sensing and the Geologic Hazards Programs, and I am confident that you will provide sufficient funding for the USGS to continue its invaluable scientific research.

I also strongly support Congressman Henry Brown's \$1 million request for the *H.L. Hunley* submarine. I have visited the *Hunley* and I believe that this request is both necessary and appropriate. The *Hunley* was the first submarine to successfully sink a ship in military action and the historic value of this rare naval artifact is immeasurable not only to Charleston, but to our nation. The *Hunley's* historical and cultural importance should not be diminished.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Culberson".

John Culberson
Member of Congress

Thank you
Mr. Chairman!